

Two Social Justice Platforms

[From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.]

The so-called "social and industrial justice" plank of the bull moose national platform of 1912 was as follows:

"We pledge ourselves to work unceasingly in state and nation for:

"The fixing of modern safety and health standards for the various occupations.

"The prohibition of child labor; minimum wage standards for working women to provide a living wage in all industrial occupations.

"The general prohibition of night work for women and the establishment of an eight-hour day for women and young persons.

"One day's rest in seven for all wage workers.

"The eight-hour day in continuous 24-hour industries.

"The abolition of the convict contract system.

"Publicity as to wages, hours and conditions of labor, etc.

"We pledge our party to establish a department of labor with a seat in the cabinet."

This plank, dictated by Mr. Roosevelt to get back into office again, contains few specifications to which he had committed himself when he held the presidency and possessed the presidency's power of accomplishment. How "unceasingly" he and some other Bull Moosers were prepared to "work for" them is seen by the promptness with which the whole platform was abandoned when he judged his political interests would be better served by a return to the republican fold.

But the Wilson platform, not of social justice promises, but of accomplished social justice actualities, includes the important declaration of the Clayton law that "the labor power of a human being is not a commodity or an article of commerce."

It includes the appointment, under a law initiated by a democratic house, of the first secretary of labor who sat in the federal cabinet.

It includes a drastic law prohibiting child labor by forbidding passage to the products of such labor across state lines.

It includes a federal compensation act now in the advanced stages of legislation.

It includes the passage of a law greatly ameliorating the condition of American seamen, a law whose beneficial influence has already extended to the merchant marines of other nations.

Contrast the abandoned Roosevelt declaration for an eight-hour day for women and children and plans operating continuously for 24 hours with Mr. Wilson's declaration for eight hours for all workers:

"I have recommended concession of the eight-hour day—that is, the substitution of an eight-hour day for the present 10-hour day in all the existing practices and agreements. I made this recommendation because I believe the concession right. The eight-hour day now undoubtedly has the sanction of the judgment of society in its favor and should be adopted as a basis for wages, even where the actual work to be done can not be completed within eight hours."

Through the platform of promises runs a theory of beneficent paternalism, of guardianship over the weaker and more unfortunate members of the industrial army, of policies framed to meet the exceptional cases only.

The platform of accomplishment,

while making even greater provision in this direction, has as its theory the doing of true social justice by adding to the dignity and rewards of labor, by giving it increased strength to stand alone, by lessening its dependence through making it more independent.

We all of us have long appreciated how immeasurably the eight-hour day would enlarge the opportunities and widen the horizon of the ambitious toiler. If we have exaggerated the difficulties in the way of its general adoption, those difficulties are admittedly very great.

It took courage in a President of the United States to declare for it so unequivocally. A president knows even better than the average citizen the power of wealth, the archaic prejudices of many large employers, the tenacity and resourcefulness of big business.

But in his declaration Mr. Wilson struck a heavy blow at socialistic propaganda in the current year. Mr. Benson will hardly poll that 1,500,000 votes. He may be satisfied if he commands the usual Debs support.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Chas. W. Masterson, democratic candidate for congress, presents the following statement of principles for the consideration of the voters of the 4th district, state of Washington:

I believe in the principles of free government, and as the democratic party, in my opinion, affords the best present medium through which these principles may find expression, I pledge fealty to that party and support of its platform.

I believe that Woodrow Wilson is "the man of the hour." That the present administration has lived up to its pre-election pledges, satisfied every reasonable demand and justifies renewed confidence and support. I will, if elected, without subservience, sustain the President.

The recent mobilization of our national guard has demonstrated the inadequacy and inefficiency of our military establishment. Experience, no doubt, will point out its defects and suggest the remedy. Congress should, by general appropriation, and by statute, stand back of the Executive in an earnest endeavor to afford just that degree of military preparedness that would afford a "first line of defense" in time of stress, and yet not be a menace in time of peace.

I believe in the conservation of natural resources. Will, if elected, earnestly endeavor to secure a more just, therefore larger, share of federal aid in the reclamation of our arid domain and reforestation of our denuded timber lands.

The experience of the state of Washington has exemplified the wisdom of universal suffrage. I will, therefore, favor the submission of an amendment to the federal constitution, extending the franchise to women.

I served in the 13th and 14th general legislative assembly, and am willing to stand on the record made therein—"the man who never missed a roll call or dodged an issue."

SURPLICE AND SURPLUS

A minister came to the Episcopal church, at Williamsport, Pa., to speak.

"Do you wish to wear a surplice?" asked the rector.

"Surplice!" cried the visitor. "Surplice! I am a Methodist. What do I know about surplices? All I know about is a deficit!" — New York Evening Post.

Does Prohibition Prohibit?

GOVERNOR CAPPER OF KANSAS SAYS IT DOES

He Also Says the So-Called "Nebraska Prosperity League is a Common Liar"

Here is one more positive answer to the lies which the "Nebraska Prosperity League" has been publishing about conditions in Kansas. Governor Capper ought to know something about Kansas. Hear him:

STATE OF KANSAS
ARTHUR CAPPER, GOVERNOR
TOPEKA

August 19, 1916.

Mr. W. T. Thompson, Nebraska Dry Federation,
Ganter Building, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:

"I have your letter of August 12th enclosing an article published by the Nebraska Prosperity League in the Omaha Bee and Omaha World-Herald, in which I am quoted as making certain comment on the bootlegging liquor business in Kansas. This purported interview with me is absolute fiction. I have made no such statements to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch or anyone else.

"Since this state closed its doors to the liquor business a never-ending campaign of falsehood has been conducted by the liquor interests of eastern states. With scarcely an exception not one truthful assertion has been published by the whisky dealers about the situation in Kansas. The wonder in my mind has always been what strange sort of mentality is responsible for this particular kind of mendacity. I have marveled at the assurance which has led the liquor interests to suppose that their vicious misrepresentations would not be discovered untrue. So palpably false have been their charges as to the operation of the prohibitory law in Kansas that liquor dealers' publicity has proved a boomerang in almost every state where they have conducted that kind of a campaign.

"I am writing a letter to the Omaha papers informing them that the advertisement of the Nebraska Prosperity League has no foundation so far as I am concerned.

"Very respectfully,

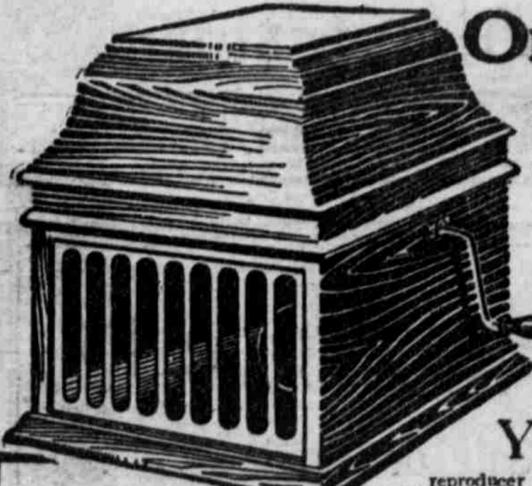
(Signed)

"ARTHUR CAPPER, Governor."

The day of brewery deception in Nebraska is nearing the evening hours. The day of brewery debauchery of the politics of Nebraska is dying, and the dawn of the new day of Nebraska's freedom from brewery control is very near. Perhaps the policy of lying on part of the "Nebraska Prosperity League" is helping the day to come sooner than expected.

THE PLATTE COUNTY (NEBR.) PROSPERITY LEAGUE

Organized to plead the cause of good government, and to brighten the faces of the children whose lives have been blighted by the curse of booze.—Published in the Columbus (Nebr.) Telegram.



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